
Memorandum for:

This memorandum was prepared for
the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
of Staff per his request on
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**Office of European Analysis
Directorate of Intelligence**

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Greenland: Implications of EC Withdrawal for US Interests

Greenland's withdrawal from the EC for economic reasons will not, in our view, have any carryover effects on US security interests on the island, which focus on the Thule and Sondrestrom air bases in the north and west. A majority of Greenlanders, who are traditionally conservative, support the US military presence.

The Motzfeldt government, in power since Home Rule began in 1979, has never questioned Greenland's role in NATO or the commitments arising from this role. Motzfeldt's term of office expires in the spring of 1987. Although some Greenlanders believe he will be forced out of office before then, this is unlikely in our judgment. Because there are no provisions in the constitution for referendum or recalls on office holders, Motzfeldt will likely retain his position as Home Rule chairman until at least the next election.

As a result of some dissatisfaction with fishing rights concessions contained in the withdrawal agreement among members of the ruling center-left minority Siumut Party, however, Motzfeldt, who is pro-NATO and a long-time friend of the US, may have lost some support. His previous tight grip on Greenlandic politics has been eroding for at least a year due to general voter discontent and several minor party financial scandals. This was clearly reflected in the national election results last April when his Siumut Party lost a significant number of votes to a growing leftwing party, Inuit Ataqatigiit, as well as to the conservative Atassut Party. Some observers state that Greenlandic youth -- the next generation of leaders -- are tending toward more leftwing and more nationalistic views. This trend may create the potential in the next few years for controversy and debate in the government over various issues, including the US military presence and its contribution to Greenlandic society.

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